

BRIEFS

SEE YOU AT POLE SUSTAINS GROWTH

NASHVILLE (BP) — The student-led See You at the Pole prayer initiative drew more than one million students globally in prayer at schools on the event's 25th anniversary on Sept. 23. While official numbers have not yet been tabulated, See You at the Pole has continued to grow since its 1990 birth with a handful of students in Texas. Students gathered in prayer around flag poles and other locations at public and private schools in the U.S. and foreign countries.

TRANSITION TEAM PUT IN PLACE AT IMB

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — International Mission Board (IMB) President David Platt has announced a transition team that will focus on the practical needs of missionaries who accept the voluntary retirement incentive recently offered to personnel who are at least 50 years of age with five years of service. The retirement incentive is the first phase to reduce IMB staff and field personnel by 600 to 800 people in response to revenue shortfalls.

GA. BAPTIST PAPER GOING ELECTRONIC

DULUTH, Ga. (BP) — The Christian Index, news journal of the Georgia Baptist Convention, will transition primarily to an online presence on Jan. 1. "Bowing to the pressures of an increasingly difficult economic climate with rising production and distribution costs — coupled with declining revenue from circulation and advertising — The Index will produce its final biweekly print edition on Dec. 24," the paper reported in its Sept. 3 print edition.

Pastor's Conference set for October 26

GRENADA, Ms. (Special) — The 2015 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference will convene October 26 at First Church, Jackson.

"My prayer is that Mississippi Baptist pastors will receive encouragement by attending," said Kevin Jackson, conference president and senior pastor of Grace Church, Grenada. "Too many times pastors are pulled in multiple directions; it is good sometimes to sit back and receive instead of being expected to give."

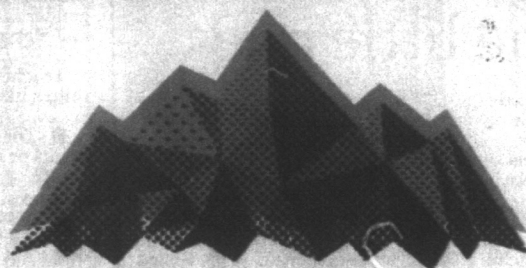
Jackson said he has intentionally assembled pastors, preachers, and theologians to encourage the attendees this year.

"Currently, 1,700 pastors quit the ministry every month. This breaks my heart. I personally understand quitting ministry. A few years ago, I almost quit too. Sometimes the pastorate is difficult and quitting enters your mind. I had a group of godly men come around me and pray for me. Honestly, I sensed the nearness of the Lord through these men."

Those men were part of the process of God healing him, Jackson said. "I want to use the [Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference] platform God has given me to encourage other men who are hurting. We will have something to offer everyone this year."

A pre-conference luncheon will be provided at 10:30 a.m. by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board (NAMB), based in Alpharetta, Ga., in the Christian Life Center at First Church, Jackson. Michael Lewis, executive director of the Pastor for Pastors Initiative at NAMB, and Johnny Hunt, senior pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Ga., and past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will discuss life and longevity in Gospel ministry.

see PASTORS on p. 6



**THE ROCK,
HIS WORK IS PERFECT,
FOR ALL HIS WAYS ARE JUSTICE.
A GOD OF FAITHFULNESS
AND WITHOUT INIQUITY,
JUST AND UPRIGHT IS HE.
DEUTERONOMY 32:4**

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS
PASTOR'S
CONFERENCE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2015
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON**



AFTERNOON SESSION

- 1 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 1:10 p.m. Welcome, Special Thanks: Kevin Jackson
- 1:20 p.m. NOBTS presentation
- 1:30 p.m. Special Music
- 1:35 p.m. Message: Michael Lewis
- 2:20 p.m. RTS presentation
- 2:30 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 2:40 p.m. Scripture and Prayer: Psalm 23
Danny Stevens
Crystal Springs Church, Tylertown
- 2:45 p.m. Message: Johnny Hunt
- 3:25 p.m. Election of 2017 officers
- 3:30 p.m. MABTS presentation
- 3:40 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 3:50 p.m. Scripture and Prayer and Offering:
Psalm 42:1-5
William Carpenter
Mantee Church, Mantee
- 3:55 p.m. Special Music
- 4:00 p.m. Message: Stan May
- 4:45 p.m. Benediction: Jim Futral

EVENING SESSION

- 6 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 6:10 p.m. William Carey Presentation
Brett Golson
- 6:20 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 6:30 p.m. Scripture and Prayer: Psalm 42:6-11
Brandon Powell
West Laurel Church, Laurel
- 6:35 p.m. NOBTS (Caskey Center) Presentation
- 6:45 p.m. Special Music
- 6:50 p.m. Message: Frank Page
- 7:30 p.m. Congregational Worship
- 7:40 p.m. Conference Theme: Kevin Jackson
- 7:50 p.m. Scripture, Prayer, and Offering
Psalm 43:1-5
Brent Barker
Emmanuel Church, Grenada
- 7:55 p.m. Special Music
- 8:00 p.m. Message: R. Albert Mohler Jr.
- 8:45 p.m. Presentation of the 2016 Miss. Baptist Pastor's Conference Leadership
Benediction and Prayer for Dismissal
Michael Wilbanks

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Suffer the little ones

Our God is indeed merciful and gracious toward us, but how much longer can we expect Him to hold back His wrath against a people that prey without conscience on His little ones?

Most people immediately think of abortion, and that's a good example. It's not the only way we abuse our children, however. Shared Hope International (SHI), a Vancouver, Wa., group that seeks to combat the trafficking of humans beings for sexual exploitation, released a report some years back that indicated hundreds of thousands of American children were in serious danger of becoming victims of organized sexual exploitation.

"In the United States, investigations in Atlanta, Las Vegas, and Washington, D.C., found that large numbers of American children are prostituted on the street, through escort services, and in pornography and erotic dancing — and large numbers of American men are buying these services," the report found.

Given that our society is exponentially sicker today than when the report was released several years ago, those numbers have undoubtedly increased substantially.

"The market for sex trafficking and sex tourism is just like a shopping mall," noted Linda Smith, a former Member of Congress from Washington State who founded Shared Hope International. "Buyers can choose from a variety of human products of various ages and colors, and as long as buyers continue to purchase the human product and facilitators support the market, the shopping mall stays open."

Many Mississippi Baptists may believe such a situation is just too grotesque to be true. Many Mississippi Baptists also probably believe it couldn't happen here in the buckle of the Bible Belt. It is true, and it does happen in Mississippi.

Here's just one example. In September 2013, Marco Laquin Rogers was convicted in federal court of using a Jackson motel room to produce a pornographic videotape of himself and accomplice Jeremy Hodges having sex with a three-year-old girl they acquired in Memphis. Hodges earlier had pleaded guilty to similar federal charges.

The sexual exploitation of children is a multi-billion-dollar per year business in the U.S., according to the SHI report. Other SHI material indicates that 55% of all child pornography found worldwide on the Internet originates in this country.

"U.S. citizens and permanent residents under the age of 18 are increasingly being recruited into the commercial sex markets," the report states, with runaway children and underage females at particularly high risk.

The report estimates that the average age of entry into prostitution or the commercial sex industry in the United States is 11-14 years old. Other conclusions in the report:

■ Only 34% of prostitution arrests were of male consumers. The other 66% were of prostituted women and children.

■ In Boston, there is a surplus of 11 females selling sex for every one male purchaser. Many of the prostitution arrests there involve children.

■ Seventy-five percent of minor girls in prostitution have a pimp, meaning that their participation in the commercial sex market is involuntary and coerced.

■ Since 1997, the number of child pornography images on the Internet has increased 1,500%.

Interviews conducted by SHI with three minors lured into prostitution uncovered the startling detail that just these three minor sex trafficking victims were sold 10-15 times per night, six days a week, totaling between 9,360 and 14,040 sex acts in a year.

Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, who brought this issue to light during her tenure as mayor, believes half of all prostitutes in the Atlanta area are children, many as young as 11 years of age. "Metropolitan Atlanta has become a national hub for child prostitution and human trafficking," she wrote recently.

That's not Thailand, or Vietnam, or Costa Rica, or some faraway, impoverished country known for their commercial sex market. Atlanta is less than a day's drive from anywhere in Mississippi.

In our own state, law enforcement professionals say with great confidence that the number of people caught for any given crime is usually only the tip of the iceberg. If that's true, just try to imagine what's really going on with Mississippi's and America's children.

Since we have reached the point in this country where we are consuming our own children for such lustful and perverted self-gratification, we should read the words of our Lord and Savior in Matthew 18:6, and Matthew 19:14, to understand our ultimate fate.

How much longer before that fate befalls us?

A world without gender

One of the hardest jobs in America today is teaching in a public school or secular private school. Besides the usual challenges, many teachers are now faced with a new mandate: eliminating references to gender in their classrooms.

Some California teachers received an instructional packet a few weeks ago which reminded them that the beginning of the school year is an "ideal time to establish the foundation of gender inclusion in your schools and classrooms."

Teachers are encouraged to say things like:

■ "There are lots of ways to be a boy or girl or even something else; isn't that great?"

■ "Some bodies are thought of as 'boy' and some thought of as 'girl' but that's not true for everyone."

■ "Being a boy or girl or something else is not about what you like or what you wear or your body. It's something that each of us figures out for ourselves based on how we feel inside."

That's just a sample. The training packet goes into significant detail about avoiding "binary" descriptions of sexuality or gender. References to gender must eliminate any hint of a connection to anatomical features. Gender is something a person chooses, and every child (even those who aren't "confused") must be taught to reconsider their gender in light of who they might feel they truly are.

It's easy to imagine a scenario where teachers will soon be reprimanded or disciplined for holding to the shocking position that boys and girls are different, that those differences are directly related to their birth sex, that both sexes should be celebrated for their uniqueness, and if someone were to take the truly outrageous position that God created man and woman as His perfect design — scandalous!



Guest opinion

with Jeff Iorg



GENDER NEUTRAL RESTROOM

Believing God makes boys and girls — and we are responsible to shape them according to their creation-gender — is too important to kowtow to today's gender-choice nonsense.

Courageous teachers in classrooms across our country will ignore training like this and continue to shape a new generation of boys into men and girls into women. Let's support them as they do.

Iorg is president of Golden Gate Seminary, a Southern Baptist Convention institution, with campuses in Mill Valley, Ca. (San Francisco area), Brea, Ca. (Los Angeles area), and Scottsdale, Az., and online. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.

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Wife of jailed American pastor ignored by Iranians

ISTANBUL, Turkey, (BP and local reports) — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani avoided meeting with the wife of imprisoned American pastor Saeed Abedini last week during his trip to the United Nations in New York City, days after Naghmeh Abedini learned her husband had recently been tortured.

Rouhani instead said in a television interview that releasing Iranian criminals held in U.S. prisons would change the "atmosphere and environment," hinting that such a change would be necessary for possibly freeing prisoners such as Saeed Abedini.

The Iranians in question were sentenced to prison for violating the international trade embargo placed on Iran for trying to develop nuclear weapons, Rouhani said.

"There are a number of Iranians in the United States who are imprisoned, who went to prison as a result of activities related to the nuclear industry in Iran. Once these sanctions have been lifted, why keep those folks in American prisons? So they must be freed," he said Sept. 27 on CNN through an interpreter.

"If the Americans take the appropriate actions vis-a-vis Iranian citizens who are being imprisoned here, then the right atmosphere and environment will be created for reciprocal action perhaps."

'A pawn'

Rouhani left New York Sept. 28 without responding to a request by Naghmeh Abedini for a meeting. She and lawyer Tiffany Barrans, international legal director for the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), will remain in New York in hopes of meeting with Gholam Ali Khoshroo, the Iranian Ambassador to the United Nations.

Naghmeh Abedini reaffirmed her husband's innocence and said the Iranian government is treating him "like a pawn in a game of chess."

"President Rouhani's demand that America release 19 criminals in exchange for his consideration of releasing individuals like my husband, imprisoned solely for his faith, demonstrates that the Iran of today is no different than the Iran who took Americans hostages during the Iranian revolution," she said in a press statement.

"The environment is ripe for Iran to demonstrate it is ready to re-enter the global market and international scene of diplomats; it is time to show its good will, to change its image from one of a pariah to a member of the global society who will protect fundamental rights."

Naghmeh Abedini commemorated the three-year mark on Sept. 26 of her husband's imprisonment with fasting and candlelight prayer vigils as she prepared for the possibility of meeting with the president of Iran. On Sept. 27, she attended a prayer vigil in Boise, Idaho, where she lives with the couple's son and daughter.

The vigil, one of more than 810 held last week around the world according to the ACLJ, was held a week after she addressed more than 100 parliamentarians from

nearly 50 countries at the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

After her presentation, 67 parliamentarians signed a letter to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament calling for Abedini's release.

Torture confirmed

A few days after the parliamentary meeting, Naghmeh Abedini received word from her in-laws who still live in Iran that her husband had been tortured once again by prison officials. Officials at Gohardasht Prison, also known as Rajai Shahr prison, on Sept. 22 tased, beat, and threatened to keep the pastor in prison indefinitely by filing new charges against him, the relatives said.

Authorities threatened to charge him with having contact with anti-government groups and making inflammatory statements and actions against the government.

The violence against Saeed Abedini came to light two days after the assault, when family members went to visit him in prison. Other public interest groups were able to confirm the abuse accusations through their own sources.

Prison officials refused to give Abedini medical treatment after the assault, Barrans said. The denial of medical care and the cumulative effect of beatings and other abuse is a source of concern for Naghmeh Abedini and those monitoring her husband's situation.

"Saeed continues to suffer from internal injuries sustained from previous beatings he endured from his captors," Barrans said. "Despite that Iranian doctors have said he needs surgeries for the last year and a half, the Iranian government has refused to provide him critical medical treatment."

"Just last week, Saeed reported to his family that one of his cellmates died after complications from lack of medical care. This past Tuesday [Sept. 22], Saeed was tasered on several occasions and complained to his family that his heart has been hurting him since Iranian intelligence officers abused him and tasered him."

"The ongoing abuse and mistreatment of Pastor Saeed is of grave concern."

Hope for meeting

With the help of the ACLJ, Naghmeh Abedini last month filed a request with the Iranian Ambassador to the U.N. to meet with Rouhani during his trip to the United Nations to address the 70th meeting of the U.N. General Assembly. Last week she told Morning Star News why the meeting would be so important to her.

"Meeting with the Iranian president and government officials is important not just because in a way they are the ones holding Saeed, but also because of all the Christians that are imprisoned and have been martyred in Iran," she said.

"I hope to be able to address Christian persecution and also give them a chance to hear the Gospel message. That's very important, because I know these are the people that are holding many, many Christians in prison, and I hope to be a voice for them."

She has attempted to speak to the Iranian president through U.N. channels once before. Two years ago, also in September, she was able to meet with members of the Iranian delegation at the United Nations during a chance encounter in the lobby of a New York hotel where they both hap-



ABEDINI FAMILY

pened to be staying. She met briefly with a member of the delegation but was ultimately unsuccessful in her attempt to meet with Rouhani.

Faith Trial

On Jan. 27, 2013, an Iranian court sentenced Abedini, 35, to eight years in prison for allegedly threatening "national security" by planting house churches in early 2000.

Seven months earlier, in July 2012, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard had briefly arrested Abedini during his visit to set up an orphanage he was building. After interrogation, authorities placed him under house arrest and told him to wait for a court summons to face criminal charges for his Christian faith.

Two months later, on Sept. 26, he was arrested at his parents' home and taken to prison where he has remained. Abedini has steadfastly claimed his innocence on all the charges filed against him.

Despite all the problems and pain, the imprisonment of her husband in Iran has been an experience that has strengthened Naghmeh Abedini in ways she probably wouldn't have imagined beforehand, she said. She described her faith before the ordeal as being somewhat riddled by fear.

"I always struggled with fear — 'What if I lose this, the one I love? What if I lose a child? What if I lose everything?' she said, and I always feared that I would lose something and I would say, 'You know, I'm done with Christ. I'm done with Christianity. This is not real.'"

She said she feared there would be a personal trial that would cause her to question God, His goodness, and her faith.

"This trial has actually really strengthened my faith," she said. "I've tasted, and I have seen, that the Lord is good, and it's really pushed me. My faith has become more real and dear to me than it has ever been. So, I'm not afraid anymore."

The ordeal has also changed what she described as "mechanical" faith into a deeper, truer relationship with God. "I've loved

Christ for most of my life. I was a missionary to Iran, but in these moments I am discovering Christ in a deeper, more intimate way, and the reality of who He is."

"He is not a story. He is not just going to church on Sunday and on Wednesdays and coming home. He is every breath I take. Every move, every step I take is through His grace."

At certain times in life one reaches a point in which experiencing Jesus in a deeper way is the only way to go on, she said.

"You just cry out, you reach out and walk by faith even though circumstances don't look very promising, and that's my biggest blessing from these last three years. That's what I have learned. The more I know Him, the more I know of His character, the more I trust Him, and the more peace covers me."

Emotionally draining

Saeed Abedini became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2010, but the Iranian government does not recognize his U.S. citizenship. His wife and two children were born in the United States. Raising their nine-year-old daughter and seven-year-old son while her husband has been detained has proven challenging and emotionally draining, she said.

Although U.S. President Barack Obama has met personally with Naghmeh Abedini and promised an all-out effort on behalf of the U.S. government to free Saeed, there has been no visible effort to do so. Obama also declined to make Saeed's plight a condition of the recent U.S.-Iranian nuclear deal.

Such diplomatic negotiations are often carried out behind the scenes, however, due to the sensitive nature of the talks. Saeed's family is understandably anxious for any news of progress toward his release.

"Most of the days my kids cry themselves to sleep, but at the same time it's been a time of need to focus on Jesus and trust Him. One of the most difficult questions they've asked is if I know that Daddy will be out anytime soon. My son's been worried if Daddy would make it, if he would die in prison. Those have been the hardest. Yes, my son's been worried about that. He says, 'Mommy, is he going to survive?' and, um, I don't know."

Most of the children's questions about their father have become answers instead about the nature of God, she said. The ordeal has taught them to walk in their own faith, instead of "borrowing" their mother's.

"I tell them that I don't have the answers but, 'The thing I do know is that God is good and God has given us everything. He gave us everything on the Cross, and He deserves our life. Now it's our turn to give Him everything, and that's why Daddy's in prison. He's willing to give his life, and he won't deny Christ.'"

She said she also tells her children that Christians have given their lives following Him, that they have been martyred and put in prison.

"Because He gave us the ultimate gift, we're asked to give our life for Him," she says she tells them. "That's the best gift we can give Him, our life; dedicating our life and following Him, however that may look like."

Adapted from Morning Star News, a California-based independent news service focusing on the persecution of Christians worldwide. Used by permission. Edited for style and clarity.

The Bible is a book filled with instructions on friendships and the significance of friendships. If you think hard enough many of you could come up with a number of verses about friendships and you certainly would remember that toward the end of His ministry Jesus simply called His disciples friends. Early in the Old Testament you'll find that Abraham was a friend of God. What an incredible thing to think about that we can be friends of God.

It is no wonder that for so many decades "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear, what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer," was a popular song to be sung for it tied us into a living, healthy, meaningful relationship with the Christ of glory. Every day all along the way friendships are significant. They are meaningful and they make life worth living.

As you think about friendships, it is important that you know that everybody you know is not necessarily your friend. It is also significant to think about that everybody you know who you may like and wish they were your friend may not be your friend. And there are people who probably think you are their friend when you don't think that you are. Complicated, isn't it?

I got to thinking about this recently when a friend of mine was expressing his appreciation for our friendship, and I in turn told him the same thing that I was so grateful that he's my friend. And he said, "You know what a true friend is, don't you? It is a person who says good things about you...behind your back." I thought how significant that they say good things about you



Focus on Friendships

behind your back. That may really be a friend. I said to him, "Well, that's what I do for you because for years and I cannot think of any setting when this has not been true that when his name would come up or I would bring his name up and I would say something positive, healthy or wholesome about him, his life and his relationship to the Lord. So, I thought, it is true in our relationship because he has treated me the same way behind my back."

Now what that means is that a person will not be two faced or false faced, or faked faced about you. Your friendship is genuine regardless of where you might be or what the circumstances may be. That does not mean that you have to agree with everybody about everything for that never happens. But in spite of the fact that you do not agree with everybody about everything you can have friends and you can be a friend. Friendships are built on the fact that you care and not just the fact that

you agree. If they are not genuine, true and transparent you at times may not be sure if you have a friendship or not.

You may feel like the man who was walking down the street and the dog came out from a house and was barking furiously and wagging his tail at the same time. The owner of the dog came out and said, "He is friendly and will not bother you." The man said, "I hear what you are saying, but I do not know which end to believe." Typically a dog wagging his tail is friendly. However, if he clamps down on your leg, you realize that you were watching the wrong end.

As you think about friendships another major truth that you need to keep in mind is that friends will be there when no one else will even come. When push comes to shove and everything in life goes bad, who at your worst moment would you call and know that they would do what they could to help? If you have ever gone through the experience of the loss of a family

member or a dear friend and although there was nothing to say a friend simply came to talk with you then you know the difference a genuine friend who simply expresses care and concern for you can make. So how do you develop friendships and how do you keep them intact? Three words I would offer that may be helpful!

Word one is niceness. Through the years it has been interesting to watch that it is the nice people who develop meaningful relationships. I would not say that they are always nice, but the overarching part of their life is to be nice to others. It is good to be nice, and it is a good thing to enjoy the niceness of a relationship.

A second word is negotiation. I am not talking about negotiating a relationship but to give some flexibility to one another. Most of your friends are probably not as perfect as you are. Give them some space, give them a break and in turn they might do that for you.

The third word is to nurture. I don't mean you have to call them ten times a day. You may not even see them for six months, but when you do it is a meaningful reconnection. I have friends that because of space and time and the busyness of life we do not get to see each other very much or call, but when we do it is as if no time has passed. We are friends and life is good. You have to keep in mind that the other person has a part in this friendship and you have a part in the friendship so the Bible clearly instructs if a man is going to have friends, he must show himself to be friendly. Be a friend and others will probably see you in the same light.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Just for the Record



NEWHEBRON CHURCH, NEWHEBRON, held deacon ordination services for Scotty Stephens Sept. 21. Shown are Stephens, his wife Tisha, and pastor Mike Grenn.



TRINITY CHURCH, VICKSBURG, ordained Timothy Lampkin and Pat Daughtry, Sr., as deacons. Shown are Billy Bratcher, Lampkin, Daughtry, and pastor Charlie Harris, Jr.



TOPEKA CHURCH, JAYESS, held a baby dedication Sept. 27. Shown are Skylar Cathern Causey, daughter of Robert & Janice Causey, and Dalton Lee Cothorn, son of Sam & Lesa Cothorn. Dale Authement, pastor.



SPRINGFIELD CHURCH, MORTON, ordained Bryan Tagert as deacon. Shown are Nicole Tagert, Tagert, and pastor Don Wilson.



BEULAH CHURCH, DECATUR, presented Sunday School perfect attendance pins for the church year 2014 - 15. Shown are the honorees.

In other Church News:

► **Mt. Pleasant Church, Gloster,** will host Paul Daily, Wild Horse Ministries, Oct. 11, 5 p.m. Daily relates horse training with God based on trust, faith, obedience, and love.

► **Oak Grove Church, Smith County,** will hold a pastor appreciation day for John Barnes, III, Oct. 11, 11 a.m. He has been pastor for 25 years.

► **Ackerman Church, Ackerman,** will host Harry and Cheryl Prewitt Salem for an evening of worship Oct. 11, 6 p.m. Love offering.

► **Shiloh Church, Big Creek,** will host The Riders in concert Oct. 11, 10:45 a.m. Dinner on the grounds

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 8, 2015

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND

YEC 2015

YOUTH EVANGELISM CHALLENGE

December 28-29, 2015
Mississippi College

Registration Begins:

Monday, Dec. 28 at 1:30 p.m.

Challenge Concludes:

Tuesday, Dec. 29 at 12:30 p.m.

Preregister online

Also featured speakers: Donna Lee

PAUL
BARNARD

TIM & TASHA
LEVERT

GARY
PERMENTER

BETHANY
BARR
PHILIPS

ALSO SPECIAL TRAINING FOR ADULT LEADERS
LED BY GARY PERMENTER



Evangelism Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. BOX 530, Jackson, MS 39205

ORANGE BEACH

Scan the QR code to register online!

Contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept. at the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for more info.
redwards@mbcb.org | 601-292-3283



BAPTIST WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

November 2, 2015

Every year on or near the first Monday in November, Baptist women in about 130 countries gather to pray for one another. They use a program published by the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) Women's Department, which is composed of 7 continental unions representing 229 national Baptist women's organizations.

The Day of Prayer is for all Baptist women, not just those who are part of your women's organization. What would appeal to most women in your church—breakfast, Saturday retreat, evening meeting? Let that determine your date, place, and time.

MS WMU • 800-748-1651 • Ext. 319

SIDE *by* SIDE

SMALL GROUP SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ever wonder how it might work to have both Sunday School and Small Groups? Ken Braddy and Rick Howerton – both of LifeWay are coming to Mississippi to share just how these two dynamic ministry tools can work Side by Side.

Hold a date...

Tuesday, November 10 – North Star Church, Sallis

Wednesday, November 11 – Grace Crossing Church, Canton

Thursday, November 12 – William Carey University, Hattiesburg

Times in all three locations:

9 A.M. – NOON

No cost, No childcare

Please register at mbcb.org/sidebyside to ensure your resources
Sponsored by: Sunday School & Small Groups & LifeWay Christian Resources.

For more information contact the Sunday School & Small Groups
Department of the MB CB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 291.

Breakfast

AMD Seminary Extension Directors Breakfast
October 27, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Baptist Building Chapel
Contact Pastor Leadership Development Dept. at
800-748-1651 for more information.

Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra Concert

October 11 - 8:00 p.m.
Canterville Baptist Church, Petal

Bivocational/Small Church Ministers & Wives Council Meeting

October 26, 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Baptist Building
Skyroom

For more information contact the
Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. of the
MBCB at 800-748-1651.

Ministers' Wives CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 26, 2015
FBC, JACKSON
5TH FLOOR

We welcome Diana Davis as our speaker. She enjoys encouraging ministry wives and training women in church leadership. Diana is a minister's wife, for over 32 years. Minister's wife of Steve Davis, vice president of SBC's NAMB, South region, her newest publication is "6 Simple Steps: Find Contentment & Joy as a Minister's Wife." Ministers' wives are welcome to join us for an afternoon of great fellowship and fulfillment.



Sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept.
Register by contacting Cathy Taylor at cwtaylor@mbcb.org.



Mother Daughter OVERNIGHT

Mother/Daughter is on October 16-17, and November 6-7, 2015, at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center. We will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. You will be involved in events such as a missionary visit, worship, ropes course, crafts and much more. This is the perfect opportunity to get away from the world and invest in a 1st-6th grade girl in your life.

Registration forms are online at garaywa.org.

Cost: \$50 per person

Please call Garaywa Camp & Conference
Center at 601-924-7034 for more information.
Sponsored by the Women's Missionary Union.

2016 AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS

For more information
contact Wyndy South,
Church Music Dept.
wsouth@mbcb.org

Thursday, January 28, 2016 16:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Area 1 - Garaywa BC, 510 W. Main St., Tunica, MS 38664

Area 2 - FBC, 10000 Lumberton St., Natchez, MS 39075

Area 3 - FBC, 410 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39201

Area 4 - Pine Springs Dr. BC, 4000 Pine Springs Dr., Meridian, MS 39067

Area 5 - Cantonville BC, 1125 Cantonville Rd., Bogalusa, LA 70026

Area 6 - FBC, Bogalusa, 900 High School Ave., Bogalusa, LA 70026

Area 7 - FBC, 300 Tate Oak Ave., Bogalusa, LA 70026

Area 8 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 9 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 10 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 11 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 12 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 13 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 14 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 15 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 16 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 17 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 18 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 19 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 20 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 21 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 22 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Doug Smith 601-924-1118

Don Jenkins 601-924-1118

Area 3 - FBC, 410 N. State St., Jackson, MS 39201

Wyndy South 601-924-1118

Area 4 - Pine Springs Dr. BC, 4000 Pine Springs Dr., Meridian, MS 39067

Area 5 - Cantonville BC, 1125 Cantonville Rd., Bogalusa, LA 70026

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Area 14 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 15 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 16 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 17 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

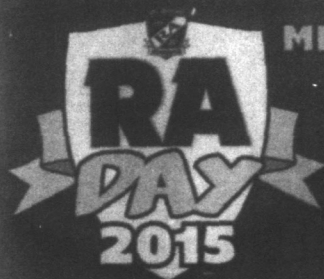
Area 18 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 19 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 20 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 21 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042

Area 22 - FBC, 807 W. 5th St., Laurel, MS 39042



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE HOMECOMING

October 24, 2015
Mississippi College, Clinton, MS

Registration - noon
Program - 1:00 p.m. • Game - 3:00 p.m.

Contact Men's Ministry at
800-748-1651, Ext. 335

Download FREE
Cooperative Program Materials Online!

Visit the CP Resources page under the
CP tab at mbcb.org

Online Leadership Training

The WMU is now offering online conferences designed to train missions and women's ministry leaders to facilitate missions education and Women's Ministry.

Conferences include:

- How to Involve Churches in Associational Missions
- How to Involve Your Church in Missions
- How to Involve Adults in Missions
- How to Involve Women in Women's Ministry
- How to Involve Students in Missions
- How to Involve Children in Missions
- How to Involve Preschoolers in Missions

To participate, you must register online at mbcb.org on the WMU Ministries page and select Online Training on the left of the page.

Cost per conference is \$10 (\$15 for the Adult Missions and Women's Ministry course)

Work at your own pace!

For more information, contact Tammy Anderson in the Mississippi WMU office at 800-748-1651, ext. 323, or at tanderson@mbcb.org.



2015 Auditions for the 2016 Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra. Open to 9th-12th graders involved in the music ministry of MS Southern Baptist Churches.

PLEASE REGISTER 2 WEEKS PRIOR TO AUDITION.

ONLY 2 AUDITION LOCATIONS REMAINING!

Saturday, October 17, 2015
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.
Baptist Building

Sunday, October 18, 2015
2:00 - 5:00 P.M.
Baptist Building

For more information contact the Church Music Department of the MBCB at 800-748-1651, Ext. 267, or 601-292-3267, Email cwtaylor@mbcb.org.

Looking for ways to introduce your church or group to missions?

Consider hosting a WorldCrafts party or use them as a special emphasis throughout the year.

WorldCrafts is a non-profit ministry of the WMU that works to provide sustainable income for impoverished people around the world.

To learn more about WorldCrafts and to plan an event, visit worldcrafts.org. WorldCrafts specialists are available to assist you in Mississippi. Contact Tammy Anderson in the state WMU office (800-748-1651, ext. 323 or tanderson@mbcb.org) for a list of names.

Pray this day for...

October 9 - October 22, 2015

"praying at all times in the Spirit...To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."
Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through evangelism

Pray for: **David & Pamela Carlton**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach & evangelism

Pray for: **Richard & Wanda Clark**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination

Pray for: **Guy DeMars**, missionary ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination

Pray for: **David & Regina White**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination

Pray for: **Alvin & Mary Doyle**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through member care

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism

Pray for: **Shelia Flowers**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through administration

Pray for: **Robert & Margaret Fortenberry**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism

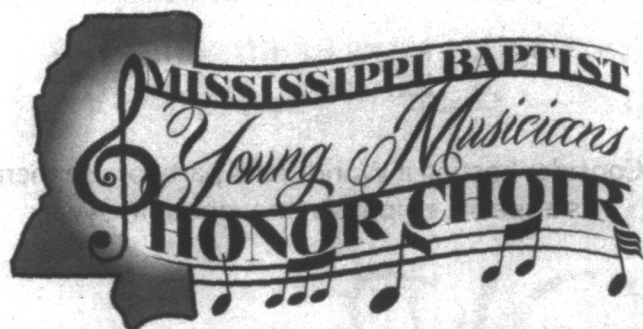
Pray for: **David & Gloria Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through media promotion and consultation

Pray for: **Cindy DeMars**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism

Pray for: **Thomas & Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir Weekend



Saturday, April 9 - Sunday, April 10, 2016
First Baptist Church of Clinton

Begin submitting video auditions August 1, 2015
Deadline: November 15, 2015

For more information, contact
Wyndy South, Church Music Dept.,
at wsouth@mbcb.org

12/02/09
 Miss Ella Epps
 Parents: A & T
 American Peoples

12/02/09
 Miss Daisy Claire
 Parents: D & M
 European Peoples

12/10/96
 Mr. Steven
 Parents: R & M
 Restricted

12/18/13
 Mr. Luke
 Parents: L & B
 European Peoples

12/14/13
 Miss Lyllian Abigail
 Parents: S & N
 Sub-Saharan African Peoples

12/19/06
 Miss A.C.
 Parents: C & A
 Restricted

12/21/06
 Miss Elizabeth Ann
 Parents: C & A
 Restricted

12/27/06
 Miss Eliana Kate
 Parents: J & H
 European Peoples

To be mailed from
WMU 11/3/15

Encourage an MK with a card!

PLEASE NOTE THE TIMING: Thank you for your love and support of MKs by sending Birthday cards! Because of the sending to other countries, there is a need to get cards sent a month ahead of birthday. As soon as the list is in the Baptist Record, please send the cards and not wait until a couple of weeks before the date of the birthday. It is posted two months ahead to give time to receive cards and then to mail them a month ahead of time to insure arrival around birthday. Again, thank you for being a blessing to so many with this ministry!

NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



HOUSE TOPS

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Trinity Church, West Point:** Revival, Oct. 11 - 14; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Blythe, speaker; Charlie Farrar, music.

► **First Church, Laurel:** One-night revival, Oct. 14, 6 p.m.; Don Wilton, speaker; Rick Forbus, music.

► **Harmony Church, Lincoln County:** Homecoming, Oct. 11; music, 10 a.m.; message, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Alvin Lyons, speaker; Jake Patrick, music.

► **Shelton Church, Moselle:** Homecoming, Oct. 11; worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Alex Hodge, speaker; Charles O. Brady, pastor.

► **First Church, Boyle:** 108th Homecoming, Oct. 11; services, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship meal; Harvey Webb, speaker; Tommy Waldrup, music.

► **New Hope Church, Walnut Grove:** Homecoming, Oct. 11; services, 11 a.m., followed by potluck dinner. Revival, Oct. 11 - 14; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Scott Vaughn, speaker.

► **Shady Grove Church, Lucedale:** Revival, Oct. 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 11 a.m. with lunch served and 7 p.m.; John Brock, speaker; Shannon Burns, music.

► **Spring Hill Church, Waterford:** Homecoming, Oct. 11; services, 10:30 a.m. followed by potluck lunch and afternoon singing; Larry Dukes, speaker; Servant's Heart Quartet, music; John Parker, pastor.

► **Holly Springs Church, Foxworth:** Homecoming, Oct. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and afternoon singing; John Blackmon, speaker; The Smiths, music; Dave Nichols II, pastor.

► **Hope Church, Philadelphia:** Revival, Oct. 11 - 14; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Johns, speaker; Gary Thorne, music; Dennis Duval, pastor.

► **McAdams Church, Salis:** Homecoming, Oct. 11; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Tony Kinton, speaker; James Young, pastor.

► **Palestine Church, Nettleton:** Revival, Oct. 11 - 14, 6:30 p.m. nightly; Jim Futral, speaker; Charlie Cooper, music.

► **Union Church, Tyler:** 200th homecoming, Oct. 7 - 11; Wed. - Fri., 6:30 p.m.; Sat., old fashion day, 10 a.m.; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)			
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* If you are reporting electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 2. If you are not reporting electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 2.			

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17. Publication of Statement of Ownership If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. If not, check box: - [] 15c-15j - [] 16a-16d 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner William H. Perkins, Jr. Date: 9/24/15 I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

Letters to the Editor

Unsigned letters will not be printed. Multi-copy and form letters will not be printed.

Each correspondent must include a home address and home telephone number for verification. Cell phone numbers are not acceptable. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing. Correspondents must refrain from personal attacks, offensive characterizations, and political partisanship. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

There is no guarantee that an individual's letter will be published. No more than one letter from an individual will be published during a six-month period.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that issue will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

SAVE THE PERSECUTED

Editor:

With Isis killing hundreds of Christians per day, the Christian community's response to this atrocity has been pathetic and shameful. Churches dating back to the third century are being destroyed daily, and our fellow brethren are dying by the droves — and yet we do nothing!

Where is our shame? The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), if we had an ounce of courage and faith, would rent planes, ask for volunteers, and seek to rescue those saints who are perishing. If we (SBC) had leadership, money would be excised from the Cooperative Program (CP) and directed towards this worthy cause.

As we sit snug in our homes, thousands of souls saved by the

same God who had mercy on all of us are being terminated systematically. In truth, we, by our non-action, are nearly as culpable as Isis for their deaths. Their blood cries out from the grave, and our hands are partially stained.

Thus, I propose we release ten million dollars from the CP, and we seek to save these saints in the land where the Gospel was first proclaimed.

Sadly, as we mire in our own comfort and selfishness, Christians are being martyred. Do we care?

God, tear our hearts and souls asunder, for we have rejected your commandment to Love thy Neighbor (Our Brother).

Andy Brasher
pastor,
Cornerstone Church
Batesville

BIBL i O C I P H E R

ZOIACR, ZOIACR, A YUR MEPT RTM,

OJVOWP U VTIE TN HLOUP NUCC AEPT

PLO SITMEQ UEQ QAO, AP UDAQOPL

UCTEO: DMP AN AP QAO, AP DIAESOP

NTIPL GMVL NIMAP.

FTLE PHOCZO: PHOEPR-NTMI

Clue: N = F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark 10:34

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

PASTORS

cont. from p. 1

RSVP for the luncheon is required, and may be accomplished at eventbrite.com/e/ms-baptist-pastors-luncheon-with-namb-tickets-18461215994?utm-medium=discovery.

The conference proper will begin at 1 p.m. Marty Hurt, pastor of music and education at Gaston Church, Booneville, will provide worship through music for the conference. Featured speakers for the session are Michael Lewis, Johnny Hunt, and Stan May, pastor of Immanuel Church in Olive Branch and a former missionary to Zimbabwe.

At 4:45 p.m., Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, will conclude

"My prayer is that the pastor's conference will remind us of the faithfulness of God to his people, as we fulfill the ministry He has given us."

Kevin Jackson

conference president and senior pastor of Grace Church, Grenada

the afternoon session with the benediction. "Dr. Futral has graciously worked with me to make this pastor's conference great this year," Jackson said.

The evening session will begin at 6 p.m. Featured speakers will be Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville, and R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

The Pastor's Conference is open to everyone, and there

is no charge for attending. Childcare is available by pre-registration only, by contacting childcare coordinator Michelle Sansing at (601) 949-1997. Deadline for requesting childcare is Oct. 19. For more information on childcare, visit mbcb.org/convention.

"My prayer is that the pastor's conference will remind us of the faithfulness of God to his people, as we fulfill the ministry He has given us," Jackson said.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

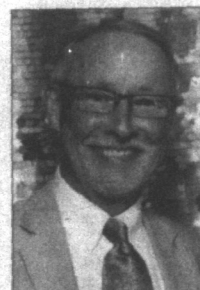
Photographs must be submitted electroni-

cally via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Staff Changes



Weaver McCracken, director of the Collegiate Ministry department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, announced his planned retirement December 31, 2015, after 28 years of service. McCracken came to the Board in 1988 as Associate Director of Collegiate Ministry and became department director in 2005. During his tenure, Mississippi BSU has been a leader nationally in student mobilization, averaging 136 students per year serving as BSU Summer Missionaries.

CLASSIFIEDS

UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Send resumes to University Baptist Church, Attention: Ashley Barrios/Search Committee, 904 Menard Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301 or email ubc@thibodaux.net

WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP — windows and storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

RAGGERROOS: A COMEDY WASHTUB BAND. We sing, play instruments, and tell jokes. Call us at 601-857-0736.

GATLINBURG RENTAL: Cabin. \$95/night. Contact: 832-922-0401 or Email: pdw4760@aol.net for information and booking.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

WANTING TO SELL: 2009 INTERNATIONAL 72 PASSENGER BUS. Great Condition, Air Conditioning 30,280 Miles. Contact Allen Clark 601-825-6737 or alclark@fcbbrand.com

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Gulfport, Miss. phone 601-776-5517.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

WWW.SEBRENHOMEIMPROVEMENT.COM. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebre. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: Gulf Shores & Orange Beach, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners, lowest prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

MS POSITIONS

GOSS BAPTIST CHURCH, COLUMBIA, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A MUSIC MINISTER THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2015. Please send resumes to 20 Mark McArthur Dr., Columbia, MS 39429 ATTN: Music Search Committee or email to markmc26@aol.net

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLOWOOD IS SEEKING A MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. Please submit resumes to Liberty Baptist Church, 5199 Lakeland Drive, Flowood, MS 39232 or email to office@lbcflowood.org

ENON BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF YOUTH. Send resumes to 2604 Carrollton Rd Grenada, MS 38901 or email to enonbaptistchurch@outlook.com or call 662-226-0778.

HIGHLAND BAPTIST IN SENATOBIA, MS IS TAKING RESUMES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Part-Time Secretary, Part-Time Minister of Students/Youth and College age Part-Time Music Minister. Send to Highland Baptist Church, Attn: Search Comm., P.O. Box 425, Senatobia, MS 38668 or via email to Pastor@hbcse Senatobia.com

FBC PEARL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. Experience in leading Choir and Praise Teams, blended services. Email resume to scottcrawford1@men.com. \$250.00 a week

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH IN MONTICELLO, MS. IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. You may call 601-320-2785 for more information.

MURPHY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTRY ASSISTANT. Please send resumes to the church at 5420 Bond Road, Louisville, MS 39339. Resumes will be accepted through October 31, 2015. They can also be e-mailed to mcbmayor@yahoo.com.

COPIAH COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION SEEKING PART-TIME ASSOCIATION MISSION DIRECTOR. Please send Resumes to: Mr. Larry Papizan, Copiah County Baptist Association, P.O. Box 230, Hazlehurst MS 39063.

THE TRI-COUNTY BAPTIST MISSION (LAWRENCE, MARION, AND WALTHALL BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS) IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF ASSOCIATE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. through October 31, 2015. Resumes can be mailed to PO Box 350, Columbia MS 39429 (attention Executive Committee), or emailed to tricitybaptistmissions@gmail.com.

GUNTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORENCE, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please submit resumes to Gunter Road Search Committee C/O Craig Dukes 2209 Woodland Place Florence, MS 39073 or rdukes@bellsouth.net.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG, MS IS SEEKING A YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to Trinity Baptist Church Search Committee, 3365 Porters Chapel Rd., Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email Charlie Harris at Cjharris@yahoo.com.

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Scattered • Genesis 11:1-19

After the flood, Noah's sons obeyed the Lord and replenished the earth. Genesis 10 chronicles their offspring, even beyond the Tower of Babel fiasco in Genesis 11, since it describes offspring living elsewhere and speaking different languages. Genesis 10:5 reads, "By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations," (KJV), and Genesis 10:20 adds, "These are the sons of Ham, after their families, after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations," (KJV). This simply means the events were written down after the Tower of Babel occurred. Moses lived many hundreds of years later and wrote this as revealed from the Lord, long after the events.

Genesis means "beginnings," and includes many firsts, including the first people, the first sin, the first murder, the first rainbow, and Genesis 11 tells where languages originated. Genesis 11:1 reads, "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech," (KJV). Genesis 10 and 11 enumerate the offspring of Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Shem's lineage is completed after the Tower of Babel event, though part of it was written before it. It also is the

only lineage to include the ages of the men, and that part only in the text after the Tower of Babel. We will see why next week. Note that Ham had four children, though only the lineage of two is given. Japheth had seven offspring, but again only two are given. Shem have five sons, but only two of their offsprings were given. The meaning was clear; that section of the earth was full of people.

After many people were born, the offspring of Nimrod, in Ham's lineage, began to build a great city (Genesis 10:9-10).

They decided to make a name for themselves and build a great tower. Only God's name is worthy of praise, but they desired the praise of mankind, so they got to work. Psalms 86:9 declares, "All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name," (KJV).

As the tower grew, God came down to see it. No matter how big it was, it

was tiny to God, the text reveals with its choice of words. God came down to see it. Isaiah 57:15 reads, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones," (KJV). God inhabits eternity. No building impresses Him.

Those who built the tower were not contrite nor humble, so God took action.

Just as the LORD b a r r e d

Explore the Bible with Rick Henson



Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden lest they ate of the Tree of Life and lived forever unredeemed (Genesis 3:22-23). God changed the world so that humans could not glorify themselves. He gave them different languages and scattered them all over the globe. They named the place Babel, since they sounded like babbling to each other. Our English word bab-

ble comes from this city's name. What a different world it became. When we Americans hear people speak foreign languages, we wonder why they do not simply speak English. They wonder the same. The language barrier was created by God to limit our self-exaltation. I travel frequently to Romania and can attest to the challenge to all involved because of this language barrier.

The Tower of Babel was about man's glory. The people who built it said they did so to make a name for themselves. Jesus proclaimed in Matthew 15:13, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up," (KJV). When we seek the Lord's glory, He will supply all of our needs. When we seek our own glory, we work against the Lord, and the Lord will root up our efforts. Matthew 6:33 reads, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," (KJV). What are you building in your life that is to your glory rather than the glory of the one true living God?

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

God's Promise of a New Home • Revelation 21:1-8

I have to admit it - I'm having trouble giving up my special "Quiet Place" cottage ("QP", as our family lovingly calls it). When we bought the QP, it was a dilapidated foreclosure; the place was hideously dirty, with some broken and boarded windows. The mistreated abode was in desperate need of a new roof, HVAC unit, floors, stove, doors, and fresh paint throughout. Months later, after investing copious amounts of blood, sweat, tears, time and money, it was a precious dollhouse! Now, it is nicely furnished as a cozy retreat for friends and family.

Sadly, the neighborhood where QP is located has deteriorated, so we're planning to take all the furnishings and move them to another, nicer rental that we own, and put QP on the market. Although I see the wisdom of this, my heart is sad as I contemplate the transition: saying good-bye to this place we've come to treasure.

In similar fashion, we'll all someday be required to put aside another kind of earthly "home" - one comprised of skin and bones. The Lord will call His children to an incredibly-beautiful dwelling created just for them (see John 14:1-3). The apostle John got a preview of this future realm, and in today's Scripture, he shares some of what we can anticipate!

Much of Revelation details the final act on world history's stage; a

time when God judges all those who reject His offer of salvation in Jesus Christ and oppose Him. Chapter 21 describes the time immediately after the Great White Throne Judgment, after Satan and all of God's enemies have been finally and fully conquered and condemned (20: 7-15). The tone then shifts: our focal passage details major and wonderful changes; an era for all who've embraced Christ as Savior to joyfully experience the fullness of God's rule and reign.

John's vision revealed "a new heaven and a new earth" (v. 1 NIV). The old had disappeared. The term "new heaven" most-likely refers to the atmosphere above earth, or possibly outer space.

Next, John saw the "new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband" (v. 2). A "new" Jerusalem is necessary because the old one was imperfect, and was spoiled by the sinfulness of humanity. And just as this magnificent dwelling-place is pictured as a beau-

tifully-adorned bride, the redeemed occupants of this holy place portray a wedding picture. They have been purified by Jesus Christ, "to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish" (Ephesians 5:26-27).

For these, "God Himself will be with them and be their God" (v. 3). Things that bring heartache and pain on earth will be no more, and the very

hand of God will "wipe every tear" from the eyes of His beloved ones (v. 4). God and His people living to-

gether in close fellowship will be possible because the effects of sin in the previous world are gone forever!

In verse 5, the Lord says, "I make all things new." Many of us whose bodies are at the "if it doesn't hurt, it doesn't work" stage look forward to this. In her book, "Heaven: Your Real Home", author Joni Eareckson Tada, a gifted, godly woman and quadriplegic, writes, "I can still hardly believe it. I, with bent, shriveled fingers, atrophied muscles, gnarled knees, and

no feeling from the shoulders down, will one day have a new body - light, bright, and clothed in righteousness...No other religion, no other philosophy promises new bodies, hearts and minds. Only in the gospel of Christ do hurting people find such incredible hope."

Declaring Himself to be "the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End" (v. 6), the eternal I AM offers a never-ending thirst-quencher "from the spring of the water of life". (Jesus alluded to this in John 4:13-14.) God calls His dear children overcomers, saying they will "inherit all things", an inheritance that's been prepared for believers "since the creation of the world" (Matthew 25:34).

Sadly, many will not experience these heavenly joys. Verse 8 lists those who will "have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." The first death is physical, the second, spiritual. We have only this lifetime to make necessary preparations for our eternal destination. Have you responded to the Lord's gracious invitation? He longs for you to be part of His forever family! Whom can you invite to join you?

Ann Maniscalco is a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ocean Springs.

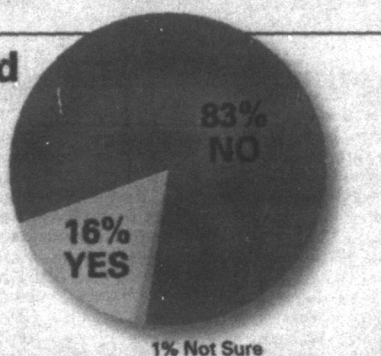
Bible Studies for Life with Ann Maniscalco



Among Protestant Pastors

Animal welfare and the church

Is your church involved in addressing animal welfare at the local level?



LifeWay

LIFEWAYRESEARCH.COM

Study shows gaps on issue of animal welfare

NASHVILLE (BP) — Protestant pastors overwhelmingly agree humanity has a God-given duty to care for animals, a new study shows. They just don't mention it much from the pulpit.

In a survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors sponsored by Every Living Thing, a national campaign for the Evangelical Statement on Responsible Care for Animals, LifeWay Research finds a distance between pastors' beliefs about animal welfare and their church activities.

Two-thirds of pastors never preach about the treatment of animals or haven't brought it up for more than a year. More than four in five say their churches aren't involved in animal welfare issues in the community.

Nevertheless, 89% of Protestant pastors say Christians have a responsibility to speak out against animal cruelty. The disparity between pastors' beliefs and church sermons and actions is worth exploring — there's a noteworthy gap, said Scott McConnell, vice president of LifeWay Research, a division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Responsible care for animals is rooted in the Bible, 94% of Protestant pastors say. Ninety-five percent believe God's command for humans to steward all living creatures still applies today.

Only 12% think God is indifferent to people's behavior toward animals.

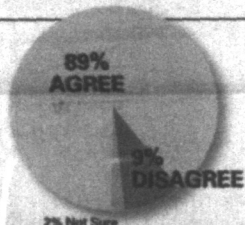
Some pastors are not certain there's a connection between caring for animals and caring about human beings. Seventy-three percent see a link, but 24% disagree.

Tension also emerges around how the church should respond. Eighty-eight percent of pastors

Among Protestant Pastors

Beliefs about animal welfare

Christians have a responsibility to speak out against animal cruelty.



LifeWay

LIFEWAYRESEARCH.COM

Methodology

The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted Sept. 8-21, 2015. The calling list was a stratified random sample drawn from a list of all Protestant churches in America. Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister, or priest of the church called. Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population. The completed sample is 1,000 surveys. The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.2%. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

say Christians need to work for protection of animals without neglecting vital human concerns, but only 16% say their church personally addresses local animal welfare issues.

Thirty-nine percent say they have never addressed the treat-

ment of animals in a sermon. "Pastors have not said their congregations are disrespectful of animals, but there is little advocacy regarding the mistreatment of animals," McConnell said.

Mainline Protestant pastors are more involved with animal welfare issues than evangelical pastors, the survey shows.

Mainline pastors (79%) are more likely than evangelical pastors (70%) to believe the way people treat animals reflects their care for human beings. Accordingly, mainline pastors more often report their local church is involved with animal welfare issues (22%) than do evangelical pastors (13%).

LifeWay Research also found differences by education level. Pastors with master's or doctoral degrees are more likely than those with bachelor's degrees to believe Christians have a duty to speak out about animal cruelty and to work to protect animals. They are also more likely to agree with the statement: "The way we treat animals is an indicator of our care for other human beings."

Evangelicals sign statement on biblical treatment of animals

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville has joined with evangelical Christian leaders to issue a statement on the biblically based treatment of animals.

Evangelical leaders unveiled the document, Every Living Thing: An Evangelical Statement on Responsible Care for Animals, on Sept. 30 at a Washington, D.C., news conference. The statement, which provides a set of biblical beliefs guiding consideration of the subject, calls for "compassionate care and responsible rule" of animals and for opposition to all cruelty toward them.

Because God creates and sustains all animals, the document's signers resolve "to work for the protection and preservation of all the kinds of animals God has created, while prioritizing human needs."

Southern Baptists played a major role in crafting and supporting the statement in preparation for its release. Barrett Duke, ERLC vice president for public policy and research, is one of the co-authors of Every Living Thing, and ERLC President Russell Moore and policy studies director Andrew Walker signed the document before its unveiling.

Among the original signers of the statement are Southern Baptist seminary presidents Daniel Akin of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and R. Albert Mohler Jr. of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Other signers include several Southern Baptist seminary and university professors as well as David Crosby, senior pastor of the First Church in New Orleans.

Duke joined Mark Rodgers, principal of The Clapham Group, and Michael Cromartie, vice president of the Ethics and Public Policy center, as co-authors of the statement, which was reviewed by 40 theologians before its release.

The statement is intended to unify evangelicals and maintain a legacy they have held on the issue, according to an Every Living Thing news release. Christian leaders such as John Wesley, William Wilberforce, and C.S. Lewis promoted the ethical treatment of animals and saw its connection to a civil and moral society, it said.

Moore said in a written release that the statement "is a reminder that the Gospel transforms our use and care of animals as we see all of God's glory reflected in his good creation."

"Our treatment of animals is a spiritual issue," he said. "The Bible is clear that our being created in the image of God does not lessen our responsibility to steward the physical world well, but heightens it."

In a video shown at the Sept. 30 news conference, Moore said the fact everything is created to display God's glory is "why we as Christians ought to be the most, of all people, opposed to cruelty or mistreatment of animals. We should be

the people — because we're formed and shaped by the Bible — who call the consciences of those around us to care about responsible treatment and care for animals."

The statement and its authors seek to make clear the distinction between human beings and animals. The document specifies God "uniquely created humankind in His own image and likeness, in contrast to creatures, including animals, who are created after their own kind; that He appointed humankind to rule over all living creatures, including animals." Human beings "have greater worth than every animal," the statement says.

Duke said at the news conference, "Humans are different, not in degree but in kind from all the rest of creation. That's a foundational theological truth that we must maintain, but that doesn't mean therefore that nothing else can actually be a thinking being simply because humans are this unique, distinctive group."

He understands "some people get nervous when we talk about animal welfare," Duke said in written comments for Baptist Press.

"I don't want to give radical animal rights groups any encouragement to advance unbiblical notions about the status of animals, either," he told Baptist Press (BP). "We are on more solid theological ground when we talk about our responsibility to animals rather than animal rights."

The Bible provides guidance on care for animals, Duke said.

"We should not shrink away from declaring this guidance out of fear that our position will be misunderstood or misused," he told BP. "Our silence can be interpreted by a watching world that we are indifferent or possibly even supportive of those

who take no thought of animal welfare. We must stake out the biblical space on every matter on which the Bible speaks and defend that space from all error or abuse."



DUKE



MOORE



WALKER



RODGERS